

Long-Term Health Effects of Embedded Depleted Uranium

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Report Documentation Page			Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
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1. REPORT DATE NOV 2010	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2010 to 00-00-2010		
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Long-Term Health Effects of Embedded Depleted Uranium			5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
			5b. GRANT NUMBER	
			5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)			5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
			5e. TASK NUMBER	
			5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Uniformed Services University,Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute,8901 Wisconsin Avenue,Bethesda,MD,20889-5603			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)			10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
			11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited				
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Presented at the Depleted Uranium Symposium, held November 4, 2010, at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute				
14. ABSTRACT				
15. SUBJECT TERMS				
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF: a. REPORT b. ABSTRACT c. THIS PAGE unclassified unclassified unclassified			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 22
				19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON

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The Embedded Pellet Rat Model

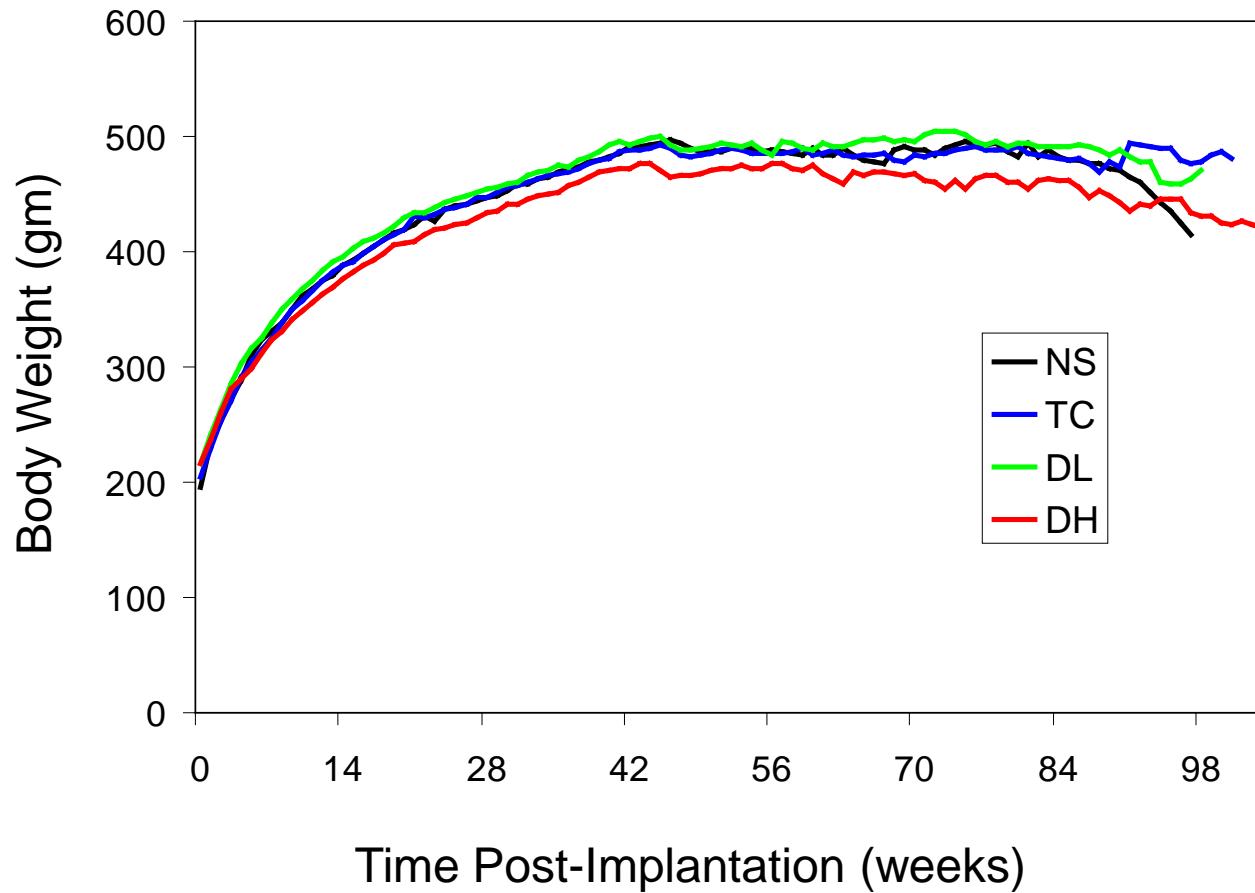


X-ray of pellets implanted in gastrocnemius muscle

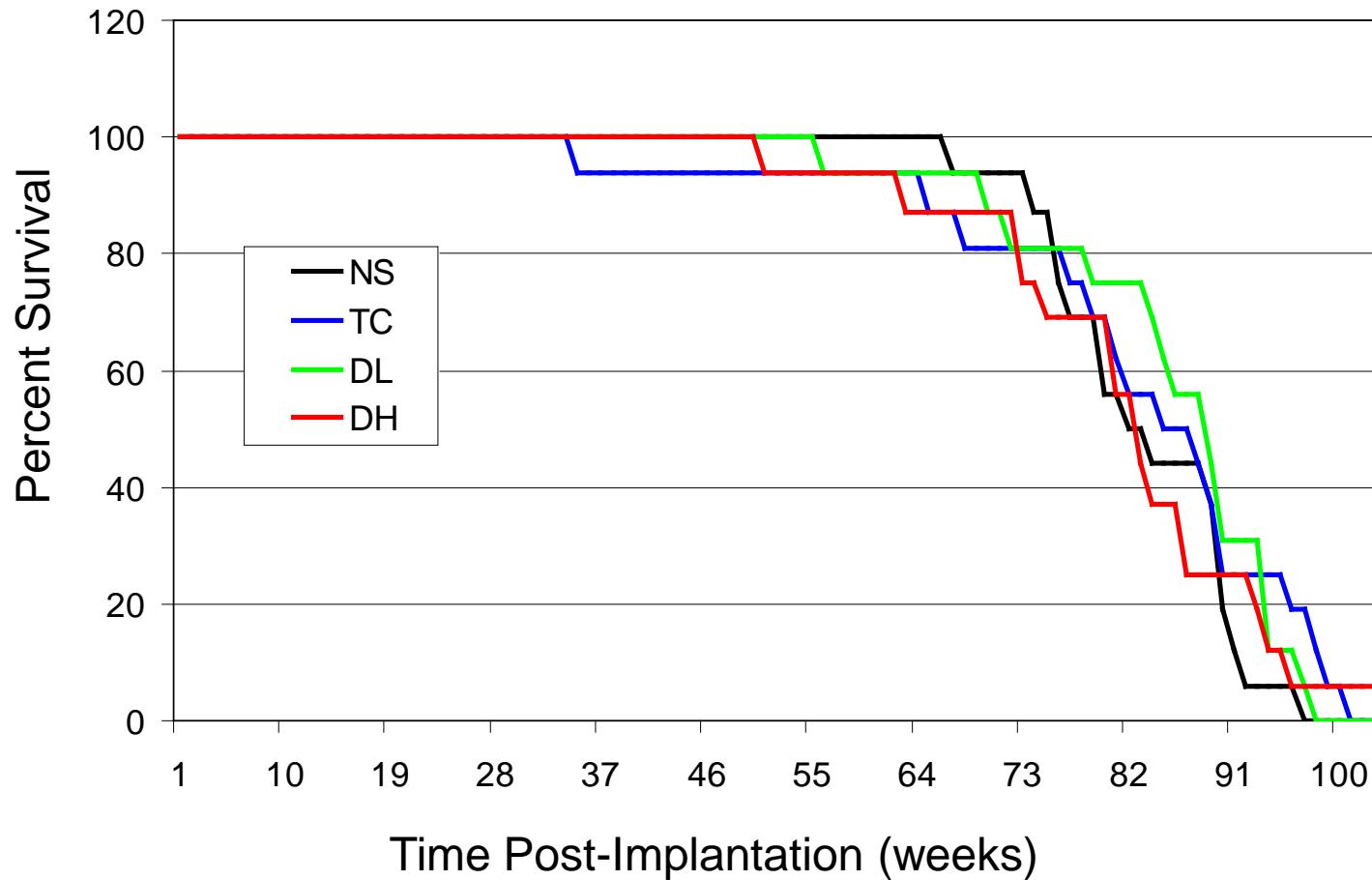
Experimental Approach

- Two-year longevity study to determine whether intramuscularly implanted DU or tungsten alloy pellets are carcinogenic.
- Six treatment groups of Fisher 344 rats
 - **Two groups with 4 or 20 DU pellets**
 - Two groups with 4 or 20 tungsten alloy pellets (91% W, 6% Ni, 3% Co)
 - One nickel group (positive control)
 - One tantalum group (negative control)
- One set of pellet-implanted rats for duration of study. Second set includes rats euthanized at selected times after pellet implantation to provide tissues for histopathology, assessment for metal content and immunotoxicity testing.
- USAMRMC Award DAMD17-01-1-0821

Body Weight Gain After Pellet Implantation



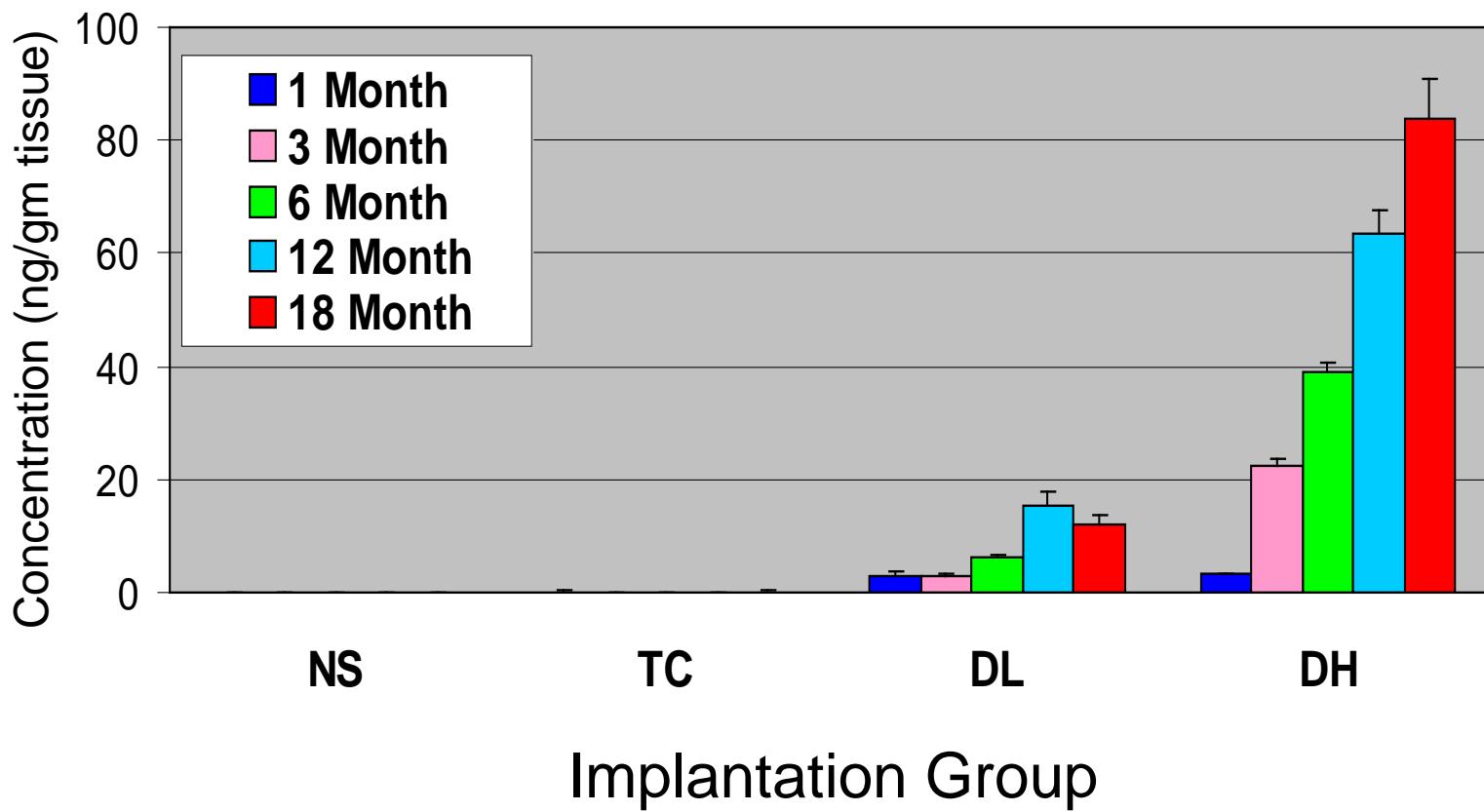
Survival After Pellet Implantation



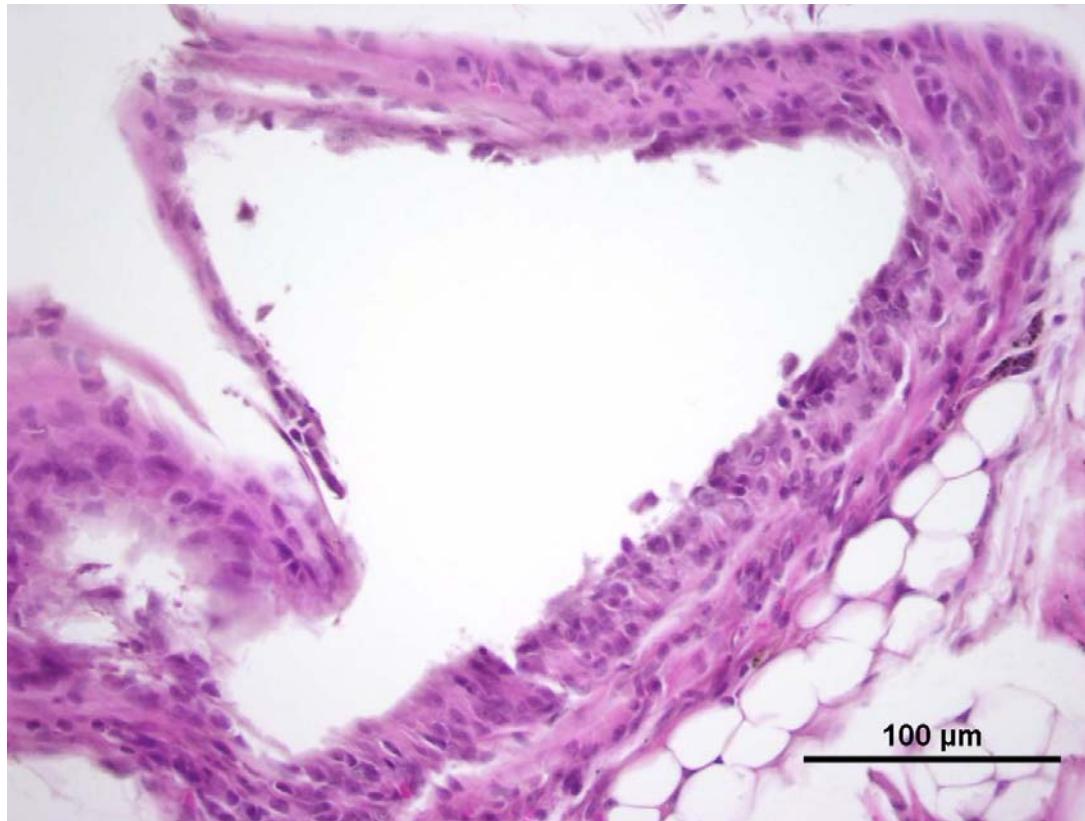
DU pellet implants: new and 12 weeks



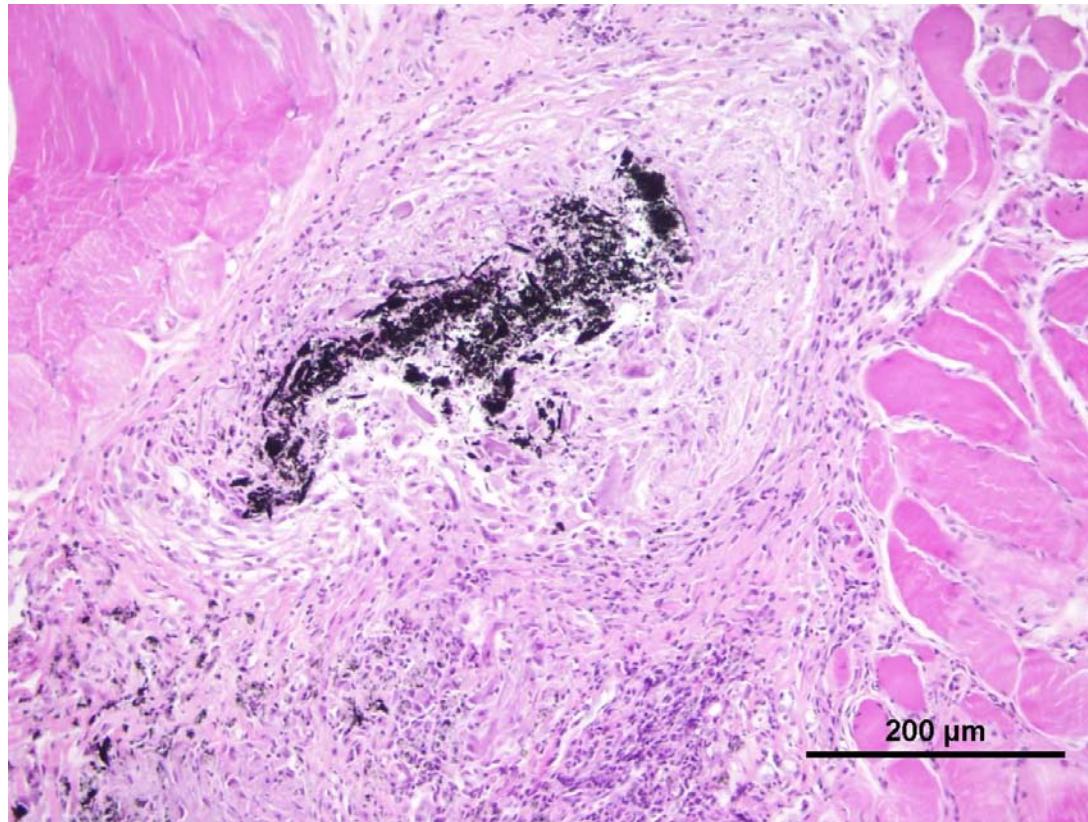
Spleen Uranium Levels



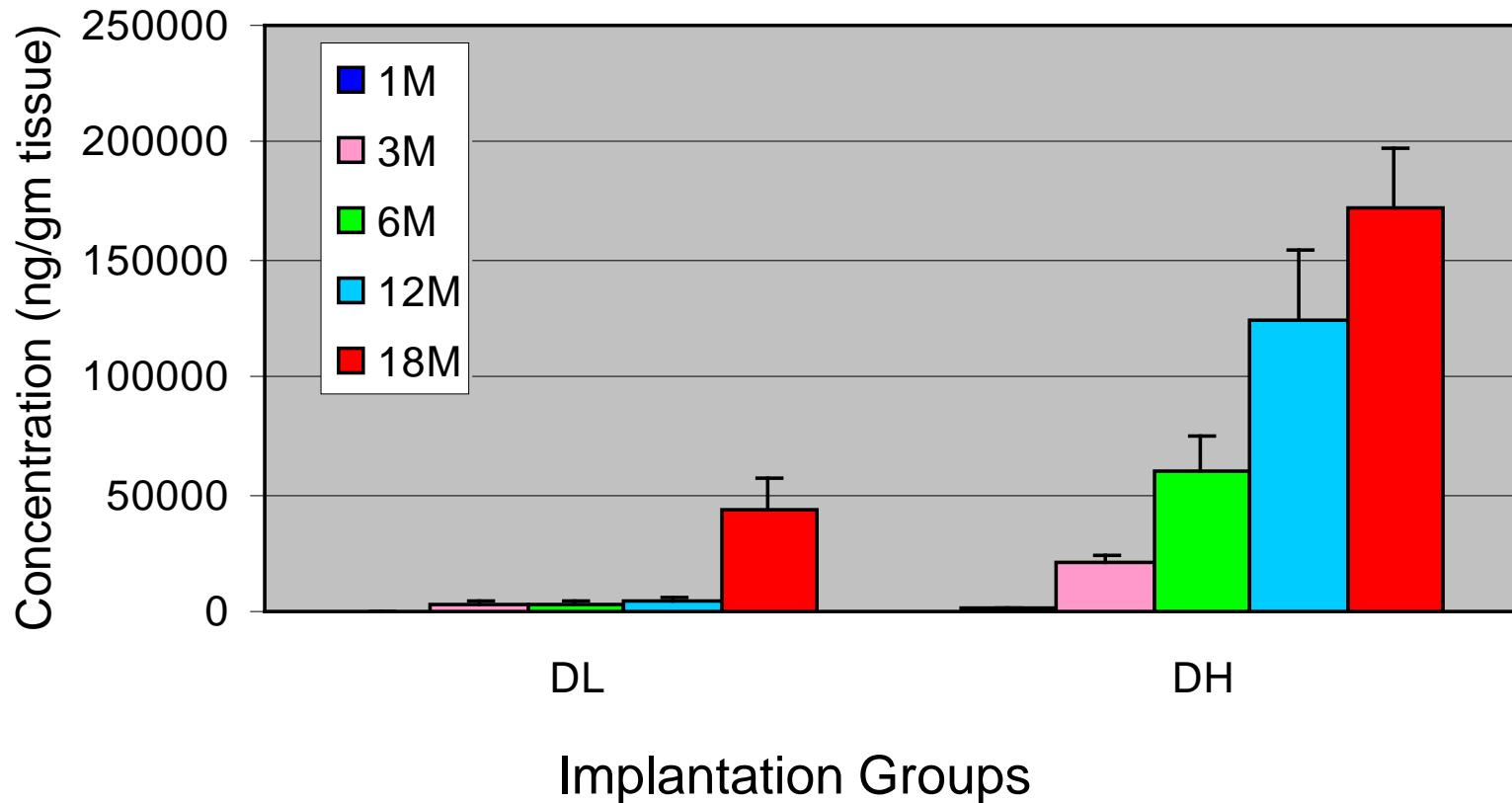
Fibrotic Capsule from DU Implantation Site (13 weeks)



DU Implantation Site – 13 weeks



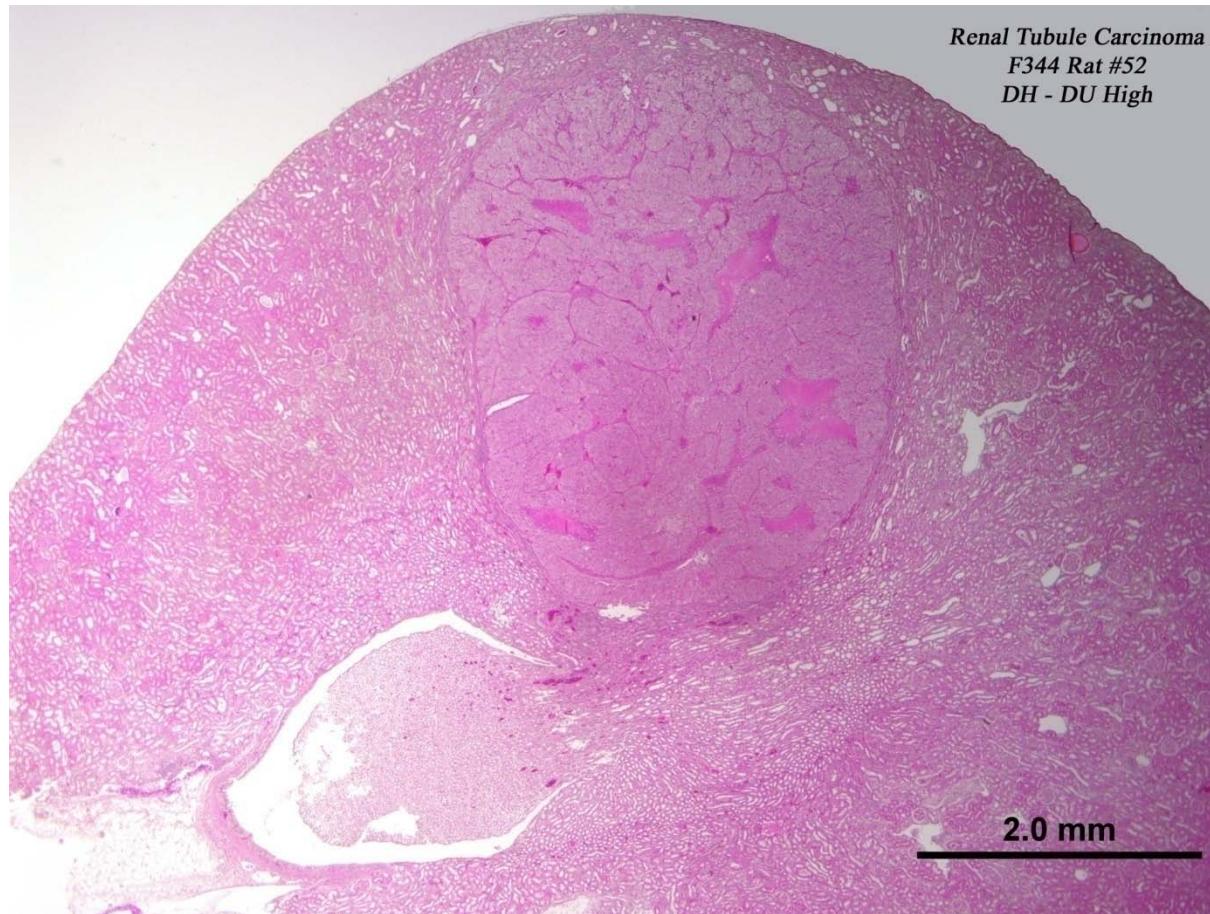
Popliteal Lymph Node Uranium Levels



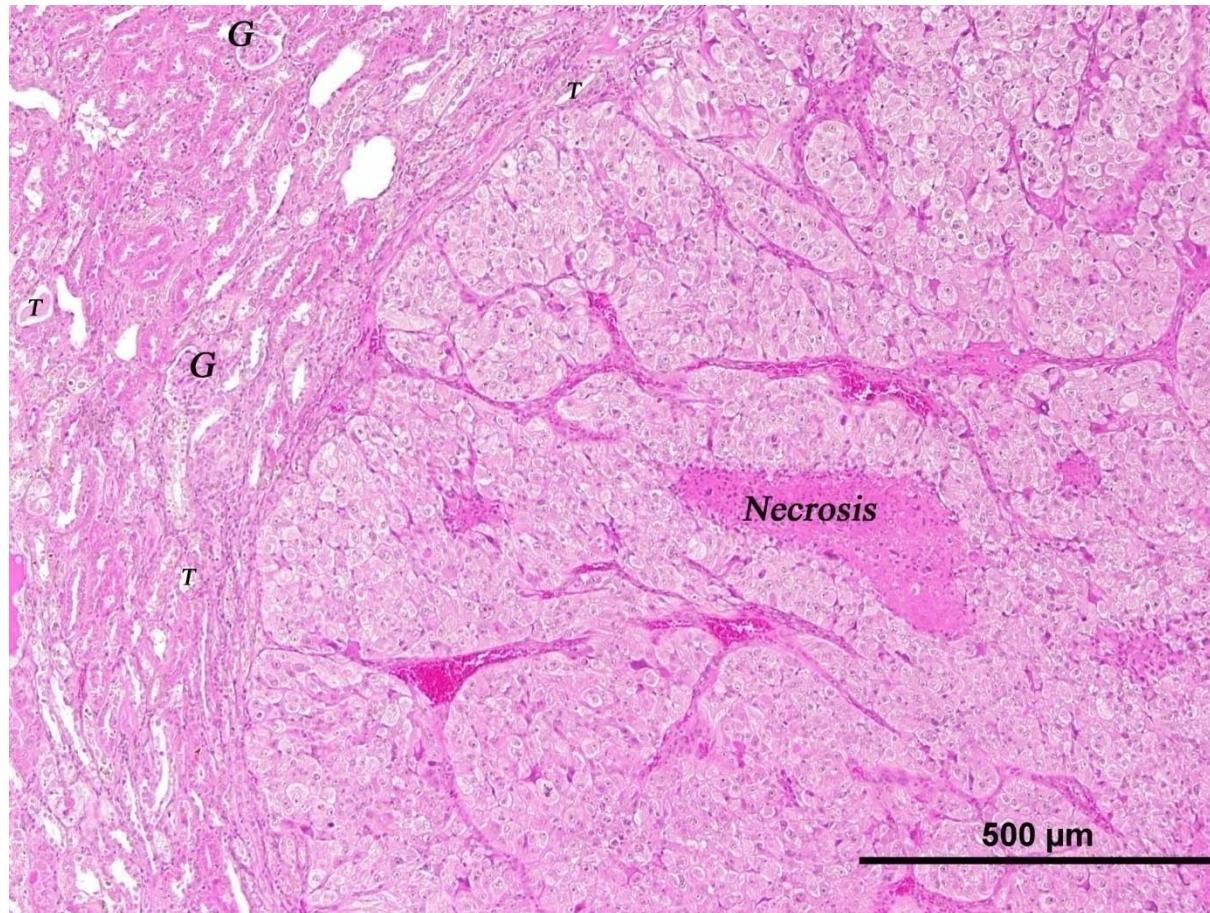
Tumor Distribution Based on Gross Necropsy Examination

	6 Month (n = 20)	12 Month (n = 20)	18 Month (n = 10)	24 Month (n = 16)
Non-surgical	None	1-abdominal	8-testicle	7-testicle 3-abdominal
Tantalum	2-abdominal	None	8-testicle 2-abdominal	9-testicle 5-abdominal 1-muscle (leg)
DU Low Dose	None	2-abdominal	8-testicle 1-abdominal	10-testicle 1-abdominal 1-adrenal 1-kidney
DU High Dose	None	2-abdominal 1-lung	6-testicle 2-abdominal 1-kidney	9-testicle 2-lung 8-kidney 1-muscle (leg)

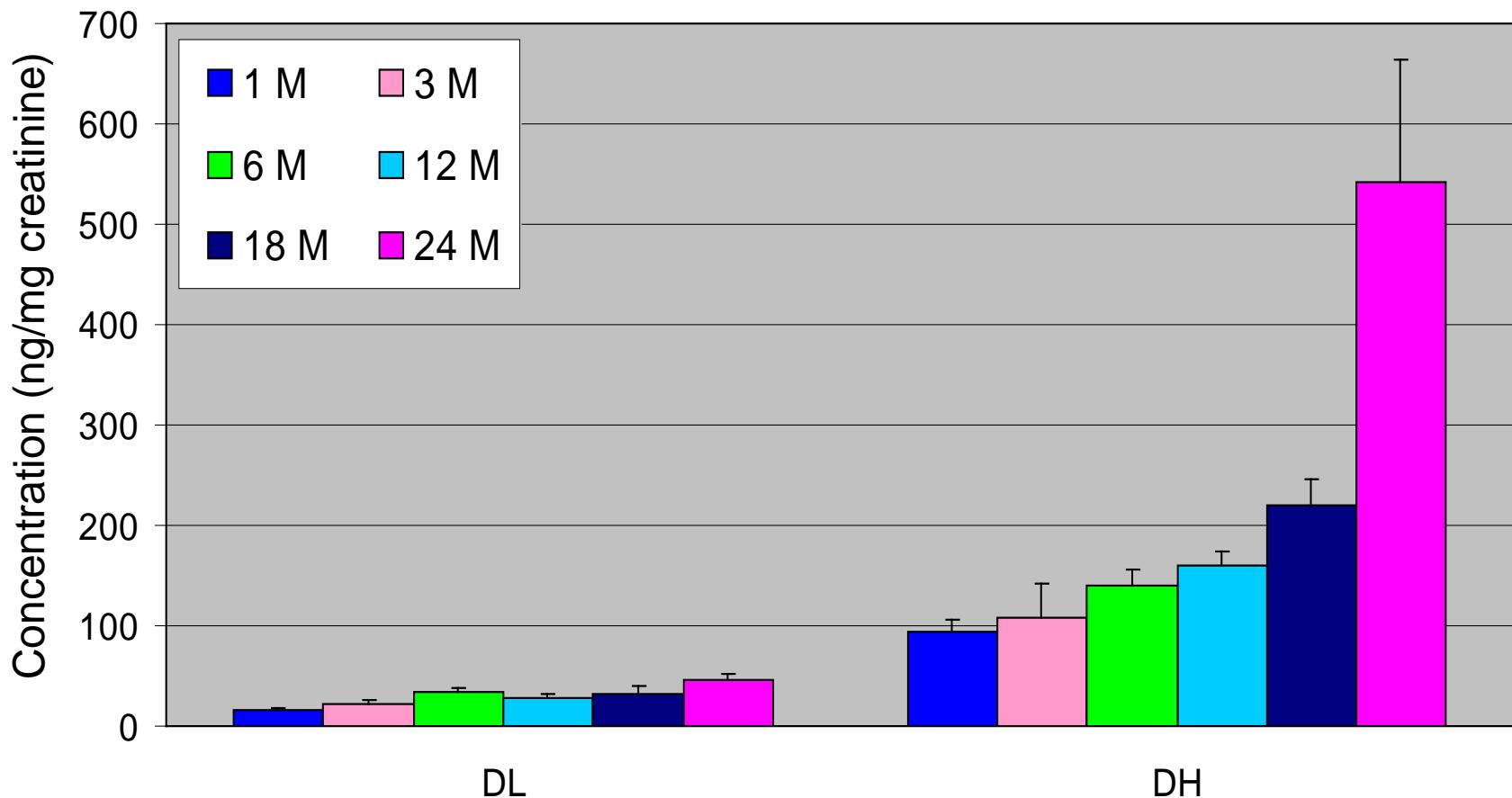
Renal Tubule Carcinoma – High-Dose DU (104 weeks)



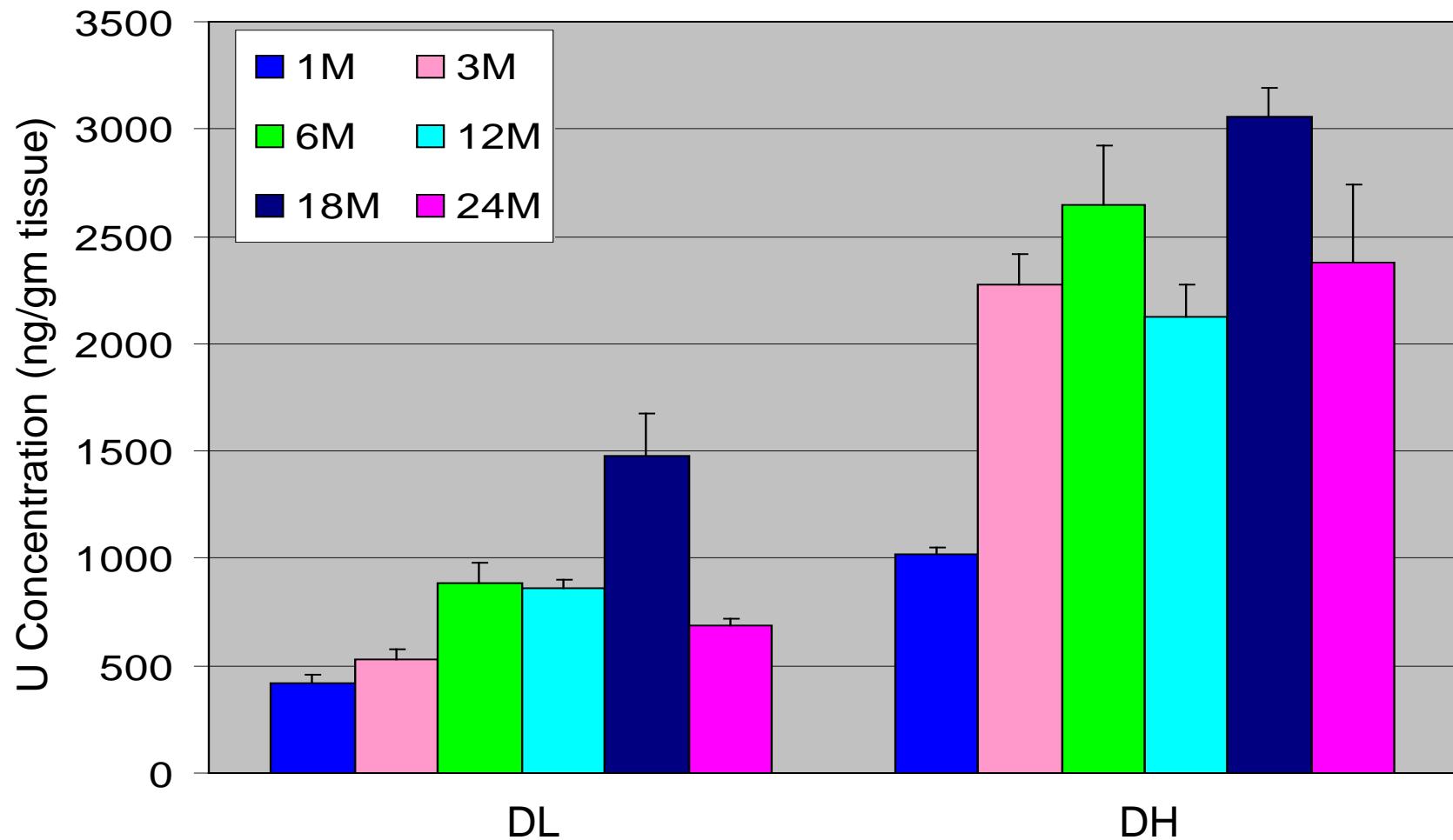
Renal Tubule Carcinoma – High-Dose DU (104 weeks)



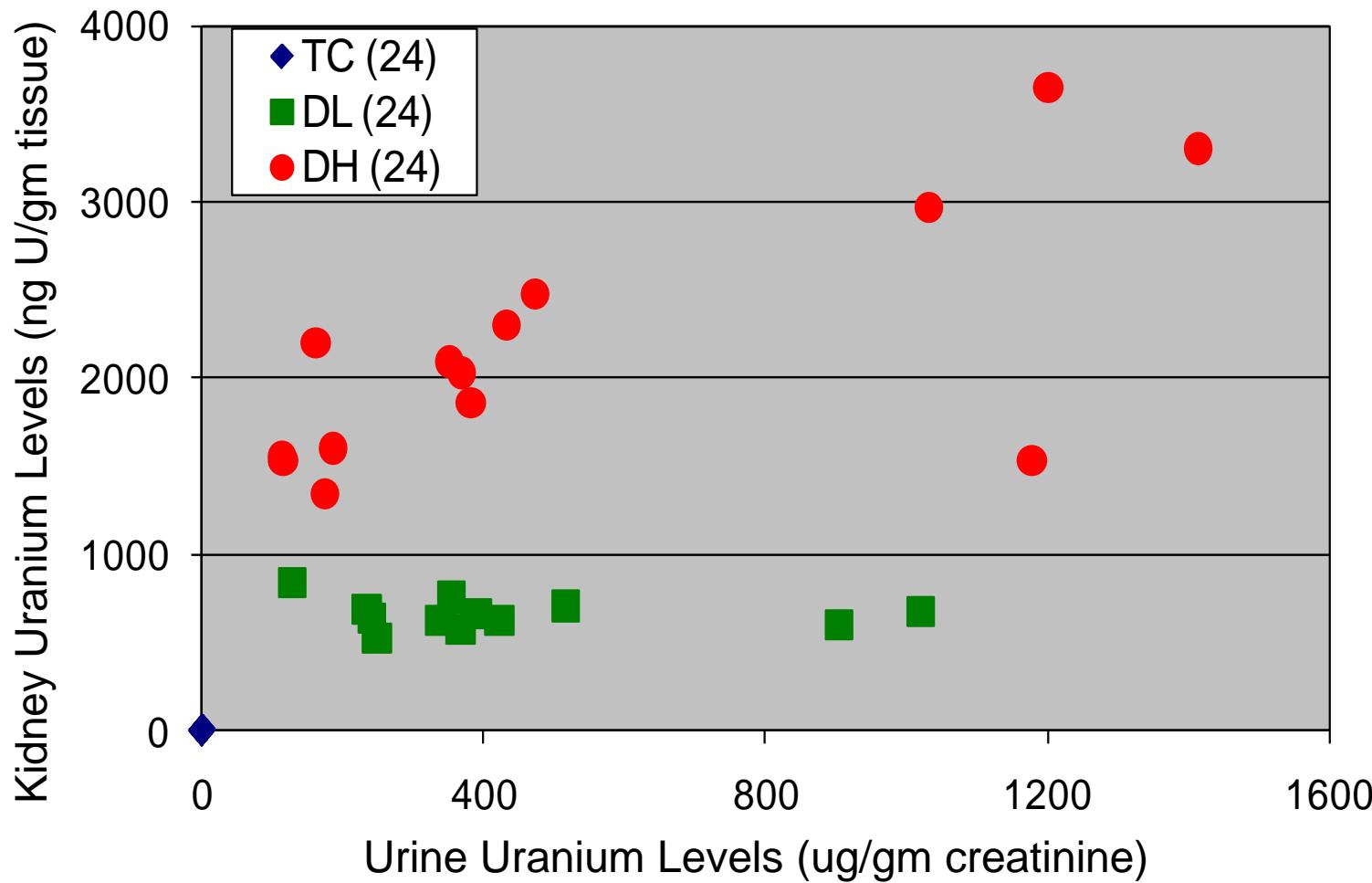
Urine Uranium Levels



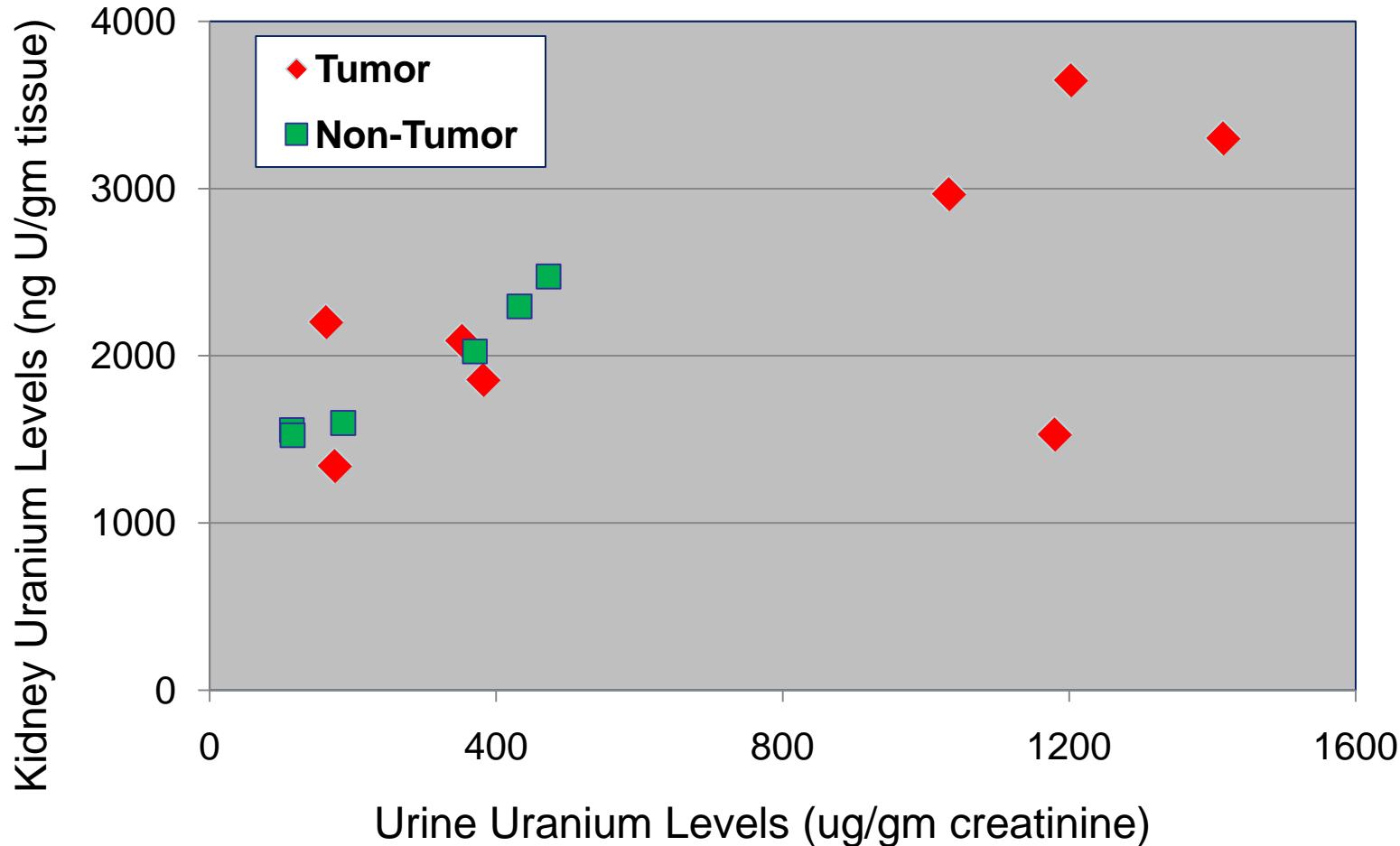
Kidney Uranium Levels



Correlation of Kidney and Urinary Uranium Levels



Uranium Levels in Rats with and without Renal Tumors



Summary

- DU-implanted rats did not exhibit tumors at the pellet implantation sites.
- High-dose DU rats, in the 24 month group, had an increased incidence of renal neoplasias.
- Urine uranium levels in DU-implanted rats increased over time in a dose-dependent manner.
- Uranium levels in the kidney also increased over time, reaching 3 µg/g tissue by 18 months in the high-dose DU group.

Current Work

- Continue histopathology assessment of renal carcinomas

Future Directions

- Identify early serum or urinary biomarkers of DU-induced neoplastic renal changes
- Investigate molecular mechanisms associated with DU-induced renal effects
- Tier-testing approach for assessing potential health effects of embedded metal fragments

The “Team”

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QUESTIONS

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